

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 106131
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 SIG-03 /064 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/WE/HECOLE
APPROVED BY EUR/WE/EMROWELL
DOD/ISA/NWALKER (DRAFT)
EUR/RPM/JFROEBE/MSTRUTZEL (DRAFT
-----054187 260305Z /17

O R 260128Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
SECDEF WASHDC 0176
USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 106131

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:MPOL, NATO, PO

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PAGE 02 STATE 106131

SUBJECT:PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES MODERNIZATION

REF: (A) USNATO 4050 DTG 20104Z APR 78, (B) USNATO 4188
DTG 251140Z APR 78

1. THOUGH WE MAY HAVE TO MAKE BILATERAL APPROACHES REGARD-
ING FURTHER EQUIPMENT FOR PORTUGAL AND WOULD APPRECIATE

USNATO UNDERTAKING CORRIDOR WORK (AS SUGGESTED REFTEL A)
TO STRENGTHEN ALLIANCE BACKING FOR THE AIR SUPPORT PROGRAM
WE ARE INCLINED FIRST TO PRESS FOR APPROACHES IN CAPITALS
BY THE PORTUGUESE. (FYI: ANY US BILATERAL APPROACHES WILL
NEED TO BE CAREFULLY HANDLED TO PRESERVE THE NATO MULTI-
LATERAL CHARACTER OF THE ASSISTANCE EFFORT. END FYI.)

2. WE BELIEVE AT APRIL 27 MEETING THE ALLIES SHOULD BE
REMINDING THAT THE NATO-APPROVED FORCE GOALS FOR PORTUGAL
GAVE FIRST PRIORITY TO THE AIR TRANSPORTABLE BRIGADE'S
GROUND EQUIPMENT, SECOND PRIORITY TO THE AIR TRANSPORT
AND TACTICAL AIR SUPPORT FOR THE BRIGADE, AND THIRD PRIOR-
ITY TO MODERNIZATION OF NAVAL FORCES. THESE PRIORITIES
HAVE NOT CHANGED, AND IT SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED THAT
REVIEW OF PORTUGAL'S REVISED NAVAL MODERNIZATION PLAN DOES
NOT SIGNAL ANY CHANGE IN PRIORITIES.

3. WE CONCUR IN SUGGESTION (PARA 3 REFTEL A) OF APPROACH
TO MUMFORD REQUESTING THAT HE, AFTER CONSULTATION WITH
THE PORTUGUESE, ANNOUNCE THAT PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE
MODERNIZATION WILL BE DISCUSSED AT JUNE MEETING OF AD HOC
COMMITTEE.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE MISSION VIEWS ON USEFULNESS OF ASKING
DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL PETRIGNANI TO APPROACH ALLIES
IN EFFORT TO IMPROVE MULTILATERALIZATION OF NATO ASSIST-
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PAGE 03 STATE 106131

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMED FORCES, MILITARY TRAINING, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, ALLIANCE, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE106131
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WE/HECOLE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780177-0852
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780414/aaaaalkn.tel
Line Count: 95
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 98b32fa7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 USNATO 4050, 78 USNATO 4188
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2840888
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES MODERNIZATION
TAGS: MPOL, PO, NATO
To: USNATO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/98b32fa7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014